

La Grande Evening Observer

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Daily except Sunday

LA GRANDE, OREGON, MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1958

WEATHER

Generally fair today and Tuesday except partly cloudy afternoon with scattered afternoon and evening showers. Continued warm. High both days 88-94. Low tonight 50-60. Sunday, high 90, low 57.

Price 5 Cents

Forest Fire Under Control Near Elgin

5 Die, 40 Injured In New York Train Wreck

SLOATSBURG, N.Y. (UPI) — Two Erie Railroad passenger trains collided head-on today at a blind curve near an abandoned depot just south of this Rockland County community, about 40 miles from New York City.

State police said five persons were killed and about 40 injured, 12 seriously.

Three of the dead were believed to be passengers and the others trainmen.

Reds, U. S. Seek Support For UN Meet

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (UPI) — The United States and Russia worked swiftly behind the scenes today to win support for their rival positions in the Middle East.

The main aim of the Soviets at the emergency session of the U.N. General Assembly was to get U.S. and British troops out of the area immediately. Moscow's delegates underscored possibilities of a new war to win support from uncommitted U.N. members to the Soviet position.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and U. S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge were reported meeting with some of the uncommitted delegates today and Tuesday to seek support for their rival plans before Wednesday's emergency meeting of the U. N. General Assembly.

Gromyko flew in Sunday from Moscow with a warning the threat of war in the Middle East was "still very acute" and the determination to make the presence of Anglo-American troops in Jordan and Lebanon the scapegoat for the present Middle East crisis.

He received powerful support from Premier Nikita Khrushchev who said in a speech in Khrushchev the Communist world would "do everything to rout the aggressors and establish peace on earth" if the West caused a war in the Middle East.

The Soviet position was clear: its Middle East policy at the U. N. session will be simply to get the American and British troops out of the Middle East. Khrushchev said Russia would do "everything possible" to accomplish this.

At the same time the Russians indicated they also would do everything they could to discredit the United States and Britain. Already the official Russian press was accusing Washington of trying to paralyze the General Assembly even before the session started.

There were hints in Washington the U. S. plan would contain dramatic surprise proposals beyond the already-stated intention of outlawing "indirect aggression" in the Middle East. Much of it was expected to follow U. N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld's proposals to coordinate peace plans with efforts to improve economic conditions there.

Herbert Hoover Spry On 84th Birthday

GREENWICH, Conn. (UPI) — Former President Herbert Hoover, one of the nation's most active octogenarians, celebrated his 84th birthday anniversary Sunday with no sign of letting up in any of his manifold activities.

While congratulatory telegrams poured into his Waldorf-Astoria Hotel suite from throughout the world, Hoover spent the day with his son, Allan H. Hoover, and his son's wife and children at the younger Hoover's home here, 30 miles from New York.

Four of the dead were men and one was a woman, Miss Pauline Cronon, Tuxedo, N.Y. Her body was trapped in the wreckage for more than two hours after the trains telescoped near the unused Sterlington, N.Y., station between here and Suffern.

State police quoted a baggage man on the westbound train as saying, "We were only going about 20 miles an hour—slow enough so I could have jumped off anytime without getting hurt."

The eastbound train, police said, was traveling at about 50 miles an hour, "according to the best information available."

A spokesman for the Erie Railroad said the accident occurred when a westbound train, headed for Port Jervis, N.Y., failed to stop at Suffern station to permit the eastbound train, bound for Hoboken, N.J., to pass on the westbound track.

Teamster Strike May Hit 11 States

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — A teamsters employer spokesman said today that employers have "put in motion" machinery for locking out truckdrivers in 11 western states within 24 hours.

An employers committee met to plan action after receiving formal notice of a strike at 6 a.m. by teamsters pickup and delivery drivers in California's Central Valley and Western Nevada.

The strike began after an employer committee rejected the union's final demands for wage parity with drivers in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Western States Employers' Labor Policy Committee warned the union it would consider a strike against all member firms in the far west.

The strike immediately involved 1,400 members of Valley Teamsters Joint Council 38, representing drivers from Bakersfield to the Oregon border and including Reno.

A general shutdown could involve as many as 100,000 people and halt all operations of 1,600 "for hire" trucking firms in the West.

Trucking involving such commodities as milk, bread and beer would not be affected since they are handled by private fleets.

Both sides held a series of meetings Sunday. When it became apparent that no agreement would be forthcoming, the meetings turned into strike-lock-out strategy sessions.

The council represents drivers in Bakersfield, Visalia, Fresno, Modesto, Stockton, Sacramento, Eureka, Marysville and Reno.

Teamsters and trucking firms negotiated a master contract covering the 11 western states last May, but many locals balked at the terms, especially those with short-haul drivers.

Negotiations continued at Modesto and Sacramento although the strike was in effect there as elsewhere in the valley.

Liquid Gas Safety Demonstration Tuesday

Date for the safety demonstration for use of propane and butane gas is 7 o'clock tomorrow evening at the Armory and tonight, as previously announced.

Bill Richards, Long Beach, Calif., engineer, will conduct the meeting and safety demonstration devoted to proper use and handling of liquid petroleum gas.

PCC Disbandment Vote Taken; North Is "Out"

PORTLAND, Ore. (UPI) — With the death of the Pacific Coast Conference the question was what comes next for big college athletics on the West Coast.

The speculation, although the 43-year-old loop actually does not dissolve until June 30, 1959, ran high immediately following the vote for disbandment here Saturday.

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chancellor of University of California, envisioned a new alliance. He said he expected the four "rebel" schools, Cal. USC, UCLA and Washington might realign with

one other school, Stanford, in a smaller conference, one "patterned" after the Ivy League and based upon a gentlemen's agreement.

He made it clear that the other four PCC schools, Oregon State, Oregon, Washington State and Idaho did not figure in these plans.

As to what the four northern schools left out of a "Big Four" or "Big Five" would do athletically, there was obviously much contemplation but no thinking out loud.



FIRE BOMBED—Converted B-25 bomber (left, center) emerges from a smoke-filled canyon as it loses its load of sodium borate on a raging fire seven miles north of Elgin yesterday. The blaze, at the time the photo was taken, was raging out of control.

Fighters brought it under control yesterday afternoon with the aid of 2,400 gallons of borate dropped by plane above—and by rains that fell.

(Observer Photo)

Slide Cuts Off 50 Campers Near Lapover

Fifty campers were isolated for 20 hours Sunday above Lapover on the Lostine River due to a slide of sandy soil which heaped tons of rock and dirt across the road.

The slide occurred Sunday night, cutting off traffic completely, and causing anxious moments for tourists and campers having vehicles beyond the blocked road.

The U. S. Forest Service sent in two bulldozers and temporarily repaired the road Sunday night.

Man Held On Check Charge

Grant Thornley, 37, wanted by Salt Lake City police on a bad check charge, was arrested in a cab at Pendleton which he hired in La Grande, according to State Police.

La Grande city police, learning he had also cashed a check at a local fruit stand and hired a local cab to Pendleton, requested state police assistance.

Thornley abandoned a 1958 Chevrolet, reported stolen from Salt Lake City, near the La Grande swimming pool, police said.

Springfield Girl Wins State Press Photog Contest

GRESHAM (UPI) — A pert blue-eyed, blond from Springfield was named Miss Oregon Press Photographer during colorful ceremonies at the closing session of the Multnomah county fair Saturday night.

Nancy Whalley, an 18-year-old beauty, won the title over eight other finalists.

She will compete for the national title next summer at the National Press Photographers' convention.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Whalley of Springfield.

Runners-up were Joan Burgoyne and Reba Burris, both of Portland.

Roundup Queen Named 'Miss Rodeo, Oregon'

PRINEVILLE (UPI) — Judy Lazkina, 18-year-old redhead who is queen of this year's Pendleton Roundup, Sunday was named as "Miss Rodeo, Oregon," at the windup of the Crooked River Roundup here.

She will compete with other state winners for the "Miss Rodeo, America," title in a pageant at Las Vegas later this month.

Legalized Gambling Idaho Primary Issue

BOISE, Idaho (UPI) — The one big issue in Idaho's primary election Tuesday is legalized gambling. And it's a hot issue in a state which borders on Nevada and which already has one attraction that its neighbors possess—a six-week illegal law.

Gambling is illegal in Idaho by law. There is no express prohibition against gambling in the state constitution. But the constitution bars lotteries and it was under that provision the Idaho Supreme court ruled a few years ago that slot machines were illegal.

A North Idaho farmer, who holds a master's degree in education, introduced the gambling issue into an otherwise dull campaign. State Sen. A. M. Derr, one of four Democratic gubernatorial aspirants, said he favored legalizing "casino-type gaming" in Idaho.

Derr said he didn't care for gambling himself, but felt Idaho needed the revenue it could bring. He cited Nevada as an example.

His announcement stirred debate and discussion across the state, in political camps, in churches and saloons. Derr's foes were discomfited by the issue. The Republicans were gleeful. Gov. Robert E. Smylie, who is seeking the GOP renomination promptly issued a statement saying he was against gambling because it was "immoral" and that anything immoral was uneconomic.

The major contests were in the Democratic primary, particularly for the gubernatorial nomination and for one of Idaho's two congressional seats.

Derr's opponents in the Democratic gubernatorial race are John Glasby, former state chairman of his party; state Sen. H. Max Hanson, a wheat farmer, and Omar Maine, a farmer who lives without a telephone and who figures he can attract the "little people" into his corner.

Police Check Report Of River Mishap Here

A telephone call reporting a small boy pulled out of the Grande Ronde river in a half-drowned condition Sunday afternoon brought a quick response from State Police and the La Grande Fire Department but no persons were found at the scene, Coroner Norm Daniels reported today.

The call was placed to Daniels, who immediately notified State Police and the city fire department. A respirator was rushed to the area.

Police were checking today to ascertain if the accident occurred or the call was false.

Shrine Football Teams Given Courtesy Coupons

Local merchants are being reminded that courtesy shopping coupons will be circulated here by Shrine football players during the next few weeks.

The shopping coupons, sponsored by local business and professional people, are redeemable for cash at the La Grande-Union County Chamber of Commerce office. Coupons must be redeemed by Sept. 12.

Players were presented with the courtesy coupon books, worth \$5, by Chamber of Commerce Manager Fred Schneider at Sunday night's annual Shrine banquet.

Chinese Red Buildup Poses Threat

TAIPEI, Formosa (UPI) — Chinese Communist artillery shelled the offshore Quemoy Islands during the night and Red fishing fleets disappeared mysteriously from the area early today. Some Nationalist military authorities speculated the two moves might be preliminary to an invasion attempt.

Official sources in Taipei said the Communists were moving troops, tanks and anti-aircraft artillery into positions opposite Quemoy. The Communists already have built up jet bomber and fighter bases in the provinces facing Formosa.

Despite the big Communist buildup, and the crisis in the Middle East, Vice Adm. Wallace Beakley, commander of the U. S. Seventh Fleet, said the Navy "is capable of maintaining peace" in the 100-mile-wide Formosa Strait and the Far East.

But Nationalist officials took notice of the Communist buildup and issued orders to all cities and towns in Formosa for emergency evacuation in case of Communist attacks. Chinese flocked to the Formosa beaches as usual—but troops armed with rifles and wearing steel helmets patrolled the dunes.

It was obvious the Nationalist government believed a Communist invasion of Formosa or its adjacent islands was imminent.

Morse Calls For Troop Withdrawal

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) — Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) has called for the "immediate withdrawal" of American troops from Lebanon.

We never should have gone into Lebanon," Morse told a news conference here Saturday night.

"Now we should get out," Acknowledging that the President "has the right and duty to protect American lives if they're in danger," Morse said "American lives in the Middle East were not in jeopardy."

Reformatory Escapees Captured At Burns

BURNS (UPI) — Two of the nine convicts who escaped from the Washington State reformatory at Monroe, Wash., Wednesday were captured here today. Five others are still at large.

Ernest Timpani, superintendent of the Monroe school, said the men captured yesterday were Roland Osterman, 21, and Robert Jacques, 23. Two other members of the fugitive group were apprehended last Thursday in a stolen car near Mount Vernon, Wash.

2½ Mile Blaze Fought Two Days By 350

BY ROBERT BUCHANAN
Observer Staff Correspondent

A forest fire near Elgin that raged out-of-control at various times during the past two days as it was fanned by high winds, was reported under control this morning by W. M. Curtis, district warden of the state forestry service here.

The fire, which officials said was started early Saturday afternoon by a train on the Joseph-Wallowa trunk line out of La Grande, burned between 800 and 900 acres of brush, grass and timber, over a two and one-half mile stretch Curtis said. The fire burned an area between the Palmer Junction road and the Grande Ronde river about seven miles north of Elgin.

Curtis said this morning that barring strong winds this afternoon, the fire should be controlled by the 50 to 60 man crew that is stationed around the lengthy blaze. However, the warden said, more electrical storms accompanied by winds are forecast for this afternoon and evening.

Six smaller blazes all under control, erupted in this area from electrical storms late Sunday. Three small fires broke out in the Ukiah district, two near La Grande and one in the Wallowa district.

Close to 350 men, loggers, state forestry men and railroad employees have been on the fire-line at the fire near Elgin, off and on since 2 p.m. Saturday when the fire was reported.

Yesterday morning, pilot Bob Sauria flying the converted B-25 bomber based at La Grande airport bombed the blaze on the southwest corner, which was running out of control, with 2400 gallons of sodium borate.

Assistant district warden Dick Hamilton, who was covered with the borate as he stood near the drop area, reported the results of the borate drop "were extremely successful" in halting the blaze that was running through the tree tops. Coming in at 125 feet in the narrow valley, Sauria let loose four times the borate stream that covered a 1,000 foot long path right ahead of the fast-moving blaze. The plane spreads a breach 75 feet wide with each drop.

The blaze started on property owned by John Crogan and spread over land owned by E. Stover on Saturday afternoon. A strong wind fanned the fire that raged over 600 acres on Saturday. Seventy-five men fought the blaze.

During Saturday night and Sunday, early, the blaze "was quiet" and a crew of 40 checked all danger points. Two cats worked day and night digging a trail around the blaze.

At about 10 a.m. Sunday morning strong winds fanned the southwest corner of the fire area and the blaze raged out of control while the tired crews and the B-25 fought to control the fire. Firefighters started backfires along a mile section of the blaze.

The fire is located near an area where a special elk hunt is being held, at the present time, by the state game commission.

High Lake Drowning Reported

Don Igstad 17, of Walla Walla, drowned Sunday at Horseshoe lake in the Wallowa primitive area, state police reported here today.

The call came in at 2 p.m. on Sunday and dragging operations continued until 5:40 p.m. when it was learned the body was recovered. He was taken to Walla Walla lake, the start of the Horseshoe Lake Trail, police said.

Details of the mishap were not immediately available.

Aged Woman Victim Of 'Pigeon Drop'

PORTLAND (UPI) — A 72-year-old woman Friday was the victim of an age-old confidence game here called the "pigeon drop" and it cost her \$6,000.

Mrs. Ethel Victoria Salls (of 2138 Northeast Halsey) recounted to police how a strange woman had approached her in a downtown department store and told of another friend who had found money in it. The friend soon appeared.

their find with Mrs. Salls if she could prove herself responsible. Anxious to share in the other women's good fortune, Mrs. Salls went with them to her bank where she drew out \$6,000 of her life's savings to prove her responsibility. She turned the money over to the strangers in good faith and they promised to return shortly with Mrs. Salls' money plus her share of the money they said they found. They have not returned.

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